

July 2015

ECA Bulletin

Local Concerns. National Impact



Visit our website: <http://www.energyca.org>

Inside this issue:

Page

- Draft Manhattan Project National Historical Park Agreement Released 2
- DOE National Cleanup Workshop Agenda..... 3
- Victoria Wassmer Nominated as DOE Under Secretary 8



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FIRST DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL CLEANUP WORKSHOP

ECA, in cooperation with the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG), will hold the first DOE National Cleanup Workshop on September 29-30, 2015 in Washington, D.C. The workshop will bring together senior DOE officials, representatives from DOE sites, industry executives, and other stakeholders to discuss the progress DOE's Office of Environmental Management is making to address the environmental legacy of the Manhattan Project and Cold War-era U.S. nuclear weapons program. Topics to be discussed include major cleanup successes planned over the next two years, improving contract and project management, efforts to develop new cleanup technologies, and more.

(Continued on page 2)

IMPLEMENTING THE MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK – ECA PEER EXCHANGE

ECA members gathered in Los Alamos, NM on July 16-17 to discuss the implementation of the Manhattan Project Historical National Park (Park), which was authorized as part of FY 2015 NDAA. Over 70 participants from across the country, including representatives from the park's three main locations – Hanford, WA, Oak Ridge, TN, and Los Alamos, NM – met to further the conversation on the implementation of this historic park. Joining

(Continued on page 6)



David Klaus, DOE Deputy Under Secretary for Management and Performance

Executive Committee



Energy
Communities
Alliance

Chair

Councilman Chuck Smith
Aiken County, South Carolina

Vice Chair

Mayor Steve Young
City of Kennewick, WA

Treasurer

Council Chair
Kristin Henderson
Los Alamos County, New Mexico

Secretary

County Executive Ron Woody
Roane County, Tennessee

Past Chair

Councilmember Robert Thompson
City of Richland, Washington

(Continued from page 1)

Department of Energy National Cleanup Workshop

As the largest environmental cleanup program in the world, EM has been charged with the responsibility of cleaning 107 sites across the country, totaling a combined area equal to that of Rhode Island and Delaware.

ECA would like to thank our current Platinum level sponsors, CH2M and Fluor, and Gold level sponsor Bechtel, for their support.

If you are interested in being a sponsor or would like to request media credentials, please contact Ivana Brancaccio by email at Ivana@energyca.org, or by phone at (202) 828-2410.

If you have any questions with your registration, please contact Sharon Worley by email at sharon.worley@energyca.org, or by phone at (202) 828-2413.

Please be sure to register for the conference online via [Eventbrite](#). We look forward to your participation.



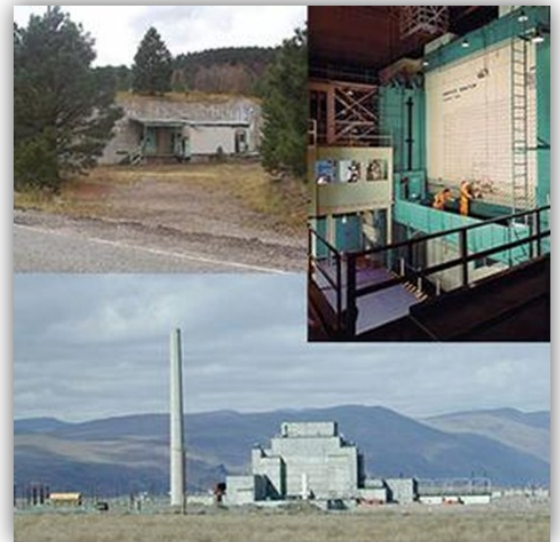
DRAFT MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AGREEMENT RELEASED

The draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Departments of Interior and Energy for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (Park) has been released and is open for comment. The draft can be accessed [here](#). The comment period closes on August 28, 2015. Comments can be shared either electronically or in print form; instructions are included in the link above. Article III of the draft MOA lays out the responsibilities of the NPS and DOE, and there are further provisions for public access as well as partnerships and philanthropy.

The MOA is required to implement Section 3039 of the FY2015 NDAA, passed in December 2014, which created the Park. This draft is the result of months of negotiations between DOE and the NPS. It follows visits by involved officials at both agencies to the Park sites in Hanford, WA, Oak Ridge, TN, and Los Alamos, NM.

ECA will send more information as it becomes available. As announced during the Peer Exchange in Los Alamos, ECA plans to assist each major stakeholder group to hold monthly meetings. ECA will also hold a call on the MOA to develop comments on this draft.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact devon@energyca.org.





DOE NATIONAL CLEANUP WORKSHOP AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

8:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:45 AM – 10:15 AM

Coffee Break

10:15 AM – 12:00 PM

Charting the Course for Major EM Successes in 2016-2017

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Featured Luncheon Speaker: David Klaus, Deputy Under Secretary for Management and Performance, DOE

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

ROUNDTABLE: Improving Acquisitions and Contract Management for Our Energy Communities

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Coffee Break

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

A Big Step Increase in the EM Technology Development Program

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Planning for and Driving Down Deferred Maintenance and Excess DOE Facilities

5:00 PM

Reception

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

EM --The Next Five Years

9:45 AM – 10:30 AM

Featured Congressional Speaker

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Coffee Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Managing Large Capital Projects at DOE

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Featured Luncheon Speaker

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Resuming Operations at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and the National TRU Program

2:30 PM -3:00 PM

Coffee Break

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

DOE-EM Acquisition Outlook and Challenges

4:00 PM

Adjourn

Note: Although separate from this meeting, the Congressional Cleanup Caucus meeting will likely occur on the evening of September 30th, 2015

We are expecting this meeting to be the largest Environmental Management focused meeting in Washington, D.C. this year. Over 300 attendees will participate including senior DOE officials, Congressional leaders, DOE Contractors and state, tribal and local government leaders.

Confirmed Speakers:

David Klaus, *Deputy Under Secretary for Management and Performance, DOE*

Mark Whitney, *Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, DOE*

Kenneth Picha, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tank Waste & Nuclear Material, DOE-EM*

Frank Marcinowski, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management, DOE-EM*

Jack Surash, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Project Management, DOE-EM*

Kevin Smith, *Manager, Office of River Protection, DOE-EM*

Jack Craig, *Manager, Savannah River Operations Office, DOE-EM*

Sue Cange, *Manager, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management, DOE-EM*

Jack Zimmerman, *Deputy Manager for the Idaho Cleanup Project, DOE Idaho Operations Office*

Gerald Boyd, *Vice President, Stoller Newport News Nuclear; Member, Secretary of Energy Advisory Board Task Force on EM Technology Development*

Bill Murphie, *Manager, Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office, DOE-EM*

Ralph Holland, *Acting Director, EM Consolidated Business Center*

Mayor Steve Young, *Kennewick, WA, ECA Vice Chair*

Seth Kirshenberg, *Executive Director, ECA*

Terry Michalske, *Director, Savannah River National Laboratory*

Jim Blankenhorn, *WIPP Recovery Manager, Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC*

Frank Sheppard, *Project Manager, Parsons-SWPF*

John Ciucci, *President, CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Co.*

Scott Sax, *President Washington Closure Hanford*

Ken Reuter, *President, URS-CH2M Oak Ridge (UCOR)*

Peggy McCullough, *Project Manager-WTP, Bechtel National*

Robert Cochran, *President, CB&I Federal Services*

William Morrison, *President, Energy Solutions Government Group*

Michael Graham, *Principal Vice President, Bechtel National*

Dyan Foss, *Global Managing Director for Nuclear, CH2M*



Legislative Update

Excerpt from the July 2014 Bulletin:

“If you are a long-time reader of the ECA Bulletin you know that this year’s budget process is like Yogi Berra’s saying, “It’s déjà vu all over again.”

This year, as the appropriations process once again grinds to a halt and the Speaker of the House admits that a continuing resolution (CR) may be necessary, it might be appropriate to borrow from *The Tempest*: “What’s past is prologue.”

Appropriations Process Stalled, Speaker Admits CR Needed

While this year’s appropriations process got off to a relatively smooth start, none but the most idealistic of observers expected any of the spending bills to become law. While Republicans control both chambers for the first time since before 2006, Democrats have largely opposed spending plans that adhere to the 2011 Budget Control Act limits. Both chambers’ appropriations committees have approved all twelve of the 2016 spending bills, but the House has passed only six and filibusters have stalled all in the Senate.

“It’s pretty clear, given the number of days we’re going to be here in September, that we’re going to need a CR of some kind,” Speaker Boehner said during a press conference this month.

Following the August recess, Congress will have roughly a dozen legislative days to either overcome the spending impasse or pass a short-term measure through the fall to avoid a shut down.

NDAA Negotiations Delayed

Armed Services Committee Chairmen John McCain (R-AZ) and Mac Thornberry (R-TX) had hoped to finish their conference on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) before August but reports indicate that will not happen.

“We’re, you know, at an impasse on a couple of issues,” House Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Adam Smith (D-WA) told *CQ Roll Call*. “And so we’re not going to get the bill done before the end of July, so it’ll drift into September.”

Disagreements regarding changes to various military personnel benefits have been the main obstruction. The Administration has threatened to veto the bill. The bill, which authorizes spending levels for DOE’s national security programs, is considered one of Congress’ few must-pass legislative items.

A number of observers and Members of Congress have said this stumbling block is hardly a death knell for this year’s NDAA.

“It’s pretty clear, given the number of days we’re going to be here in September, that we’re going to need a CR of some kind,” Speaker Boehner said during a press conference this month.

“Given the fact that the last two or three NDAA’s didn’t get done until after Christmas, using that as a measuring stick we’re still ahead of schedule,” said Joe Courtney of

Connecticut, the ranking Democrat on the Armed Services Seapower Subcommittee.

Senate ENR Releases Energy Reform Bill

The leaders of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee unveiled their sweeping energy reform package on Wednesday, July 22. The bill, spearheaded by Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA), covers energy efficiency, infrastructure, supply, accountability, and conservation.

Energy communities will be pleased to learn that two provisions related to national laboratories have been included in the bill. The first amends the *Energy Policy Act of 2005* to allow the directors of national labs to use technology transfer funds to demonstrate potential commercial applications of any research and technologies arising from lab activities. The

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 1)

Implementing the Manhattan Project National Historical Park – ECA Peer Exchange

ECA members were DOE Deputy Under Secretary for Management and Performance David Klaus, Associate Director for Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands at the National Park Service (NPS) Victor Knox, and local officials from other communities.

A Timely Discussion

The Peer Exchange kicked off on July 16, coincidentally the 70th anniversary of the [Trinity Test](#), the first successful test of an atomic bomb, with a tour of historic and potential Park sites at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

The tour gave participants a firsthand look at historical and cultural sites, including the Tsigere Pueblo, an archeological site dating back to the 14th century, TA-18-1, the infamous location of a criticality accident that led to scientist Louis Slotin's death, Pond Cabin, and Quonset Hut (TA-22), one of LANL's most historically significant buildings and where the Fat Man bomb was designed.

Participants were welcomed by Council Chair and ECA Treasurer Kristin Henderson and Deputy Under Secretary Klaus, who expressed his dedication to seeing the national park become a success for all host communities. Klaus also reiterated Secretary Moniz's interest in seeing the project move forward during his tenure. Council Chair Henderson lauded the work of the communities who were successful in working to pass the legislation creating the Park and expressed her hope that it would be implemented successfully.

"We are looking forward to NPS establishing the Manhattan Project National Park which will allow

our communities to promote our joint history," Chair Henderson said. "I am grateful for everyone's efforts in making this Park a reality and I am excited to learn how we can work together to help each of our communities benefit from the Manhattan Project National Historical Park."



Victor Knox, NPS Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands

A Unique Opportunity for Future Parks

During the two day exchange, participants discussed the challenges and opportunities each community faces in planning and implementing the national park. The first presentation revealed a new app designed by the Resources Management Team at LANL. This creative and interactive app will give visitors the chance to walk through Los Alamos with their electronic devices and experience what the county would have looked like during the 1940s. The presentation challenged participants to think about

designing the Manhattan Project National Historical Park as *the* park of the future.

Associate Director Knox noted the key to Park's success will be collaboration.

"How do we get there? By establishing a strong foundation for the new park," said Knox.

The objective of NPS will be to lay the groundwork for a strong support network to facilitate the park's mission to educate visitors of the difficult decisions made during WWII. Knox acknowledged the unique opportunity for the Park to establish a "virtual visitor's center" citing the growing belief at NPS that such centers are costly and obsolete.

How Do We Get There? Envisioning the Manhattan Project Historical National Park

During the roundtables and panel discussions, participants dove into the complex roles local

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Implementing the Manhattan Project National Historical Park – ECA Peer Exchange

governments, historical societies, tourism officials, libraries, communities, and others will have in implementing MPNHP.

in Hanford, WA – that already have a regular flow of visitors will help each site focus on threading together a cohesive message to unilaterally brand the park.

During the *Marketing Heritage Tourism* panel, speakers focused on identifying regional tourist attractions where the right marketing techniques could bolster the number of visitors passing through the park sites. Local leaders brainstormed ideas on



From left to right: Victor Knox, NPS; Roane County Executive Ron Woody, ECA Secretary; Gary Peterson, TRIDEC; Ronald Wilkins, Los Alamos Historical Society; Colleen French, DOE; Maynard Plahuta, B Reactor Museum Association; Los Alamos Council Chair Kristin Henderson; Kathryn Baldwin, Oak Ridge; Ivana Brancaccio, ECA

“We will need to look at our communities with fresh eyes,” said Jason Lott, Superintendent of Bandelier National Monument.

Participants determined they could better assess their communities’ strengths and weaknesses to market themselves individually and collectively to future park visitors. Local government leaders discussed the need to invest in their community’s infrastructure. Whether it means adding street signs or parking lots, participants agreed they must go the extra mile to ensure their communities are welcoming to visitors, but also heeded caution about balancing community interests and concerns regarding the rising number of visitors that will enter town.

Another topic that resonated with participants involved DOE and NPS taking advantage of already existing sites that all three cities have to offer. Utilizing current attractions – such as the B-Reactor

how to incorporate their site as a destination by coordinating with their tourism departments. Panelists and facilitators recognized that collaboration each region’s tourism departments will be paramount in capturing visitors.

One concern expressed during the exchange was ensuring proper security measures are in place before the roll out of MPNHP. Many of the sites that visitors will have access to are “behind the fence” where classified activities take place. The answer, NPS Superintendent Jason Lott said, is not to try to gain access to all sites but to ensure access to just enough sites to be able to tell the Manhattan Project story.

The overall consensus in the room was excitement and enthusiasm, as the MPNHP’s implementation means an opportunity for economic development.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 5)

Legislative Update

second provision requires the Secretary of Energy to take actions to facilitate access to national laboratories for small business concerns, including the creation of a website publicizing such programs and promoting the transfer of innovative energy technologies.

While the bill does not specifically address increasing nuclear energy production, it does require the Secretary of Energy – in coordination with national lab, relevant agencies, and stakeholders – to provide a report to the Senate Committees on Energy and Natural Resources and Environment and Public Works, as well as the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, assessing the capability of DOE to host privately funded fusion and fission reactor prototypes of up to 20 megawatts thermal output and related demonstration facilities at DOE sites.

Specifically, the bill requires the report to provide an assessment of:

1. The safety review, oversight capabilities, and potential liability of DOE.
2. Potential sites capable of hosting research, development, and demonstration of prototype reactors and related facilities for the purpose of reducing technical risk.

3. Existing physical and technical capabilities of the Department and National Laboratories relevant to research, development and oversight.
4. Efficacy of DOE's available contractual mechanisms including (a) cooperative research and development agreements; (b) work for others agreements; and (c) and agreements for commercializing technology.
5. Potential cost structures relating to physical security, decommissioning, liability and other long-term project contracts.
6. Feasibility of DOE providing technical assistance to developers of privately funded fusion and advanced fission reactors in connection with obtaining a license from the NRC or demonstration reactors or commercial reactors of varying size and readiness levels up to 2 gigawatts of thermal output.
7. Other challenges or considerations identified by the Secretary of Energy.

The report is due no later than 180 days after the bill is enacted.

In addition, the bill looks to ensure a skilled nuclear workforce for the future by amending *Energy Policy Act of 2005* provisions that support universities teaching and researching advanced nuclear technologies and increasing the number of graduates in nuclear science and related fields.

The full text of the bill can be found [here](#). The Committee approved the bill during the last week of July by a vote of 18-4.

VICTORIA WASSMER NOMINATED AS DOE UNDER SECRETARY



Victoria Wassmer was [nominated](#) to serve as Under Secretary for Management and Performance on July 23 by the White House. Wassmer has served as Assistant Administrator for Finance and Management at the Federal Aviation Administration since 2011. She served in a number of senior financial roles at FAA from 2004-2010 and was the Vice President for Administration and Finance at the Millennium Challenge corporations from 2010 to 2011.

Wassmer was considered for the Chief Financial Officer position at EPA last year, however, her nomination failed to reach the Senate floor. ECA will send further details on her confirmation process as they become available.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN COULD FACE MORE ROADBLOCKS

Nevada Senators Harry Reid (D) and Dean Heller (R) have introduced S. 1825, [*The Nuclear Waste Informed Consent Act*](#), a bill that could make the resumption of activities around Yucca Mountain even more difficult. The bill would require the Secretary of Energy to obtain the consent of affected state and local governments before making an expenditure from the Nuclear Waste Fund for a nuclear waste repository.

According to the bill language, consent will only be achieved if the Secretary enters into an agreement to host a repository with:

- the governor of the state where the repository is proposed to be located;
- each affected unit of local government;
- any unit of general local government contiguous to the area if spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste will be transported through that unit of local government for disposal at the repository; and
- each affected Indian tribe.

The agreement will only be official if it is in writing and signed by all parties. After that point, the agreement would be binding and could only be revoked or amended through mutual agreement of all the signatories.

The bill's introduction follows the President's [*proclamation*](#) establishing the *Basin and Range National Monument* in Nevada. The 704,000-acre national monument conservation area spans parts of

both Lincoln and Nye Counties. Many local government representatives in the area find the designation controversial, as it was made without



Members of Congress and others tour a tunnel inside Yucca Mountain

consensus from those directly impacted and will limit economic development in an area where the federal government controls the majority of the land.

The new Monument may have significant impacts on any efforts to revive Yucca Mountain, as well. As Nevada Congressman Mark Amodei (R) told *The Ely Times*, "I suspect that what it's attempting to protect is any potential rail to Yucca Mountain." While Amodei says he's just speculating, the proclamation does include the following provision: "...no new rights-of-way for electric transmission or transportation shall be authorized within the monument."



Check out Daughters of Hanford, a project that highlights women's perspectives of the Hanford nuclear site. The project offers a cross-section of politicians, leaders, and environmental cleanup advocates - all women who were part of history and the future talent putting their minds on the nuclear site's toughest problems. More information [here](#).

(Continued from page 7)

Implementing the Manhattan Project National Historical Park – ECA Peer Exchange

Participants also heard from NPS Associate Director of Partnerships and Civic Engagement Jeff Reinbold about partnerships with private donors. NPS is trying to be more donor centric, he said, and hopes to optimize its Stakeholder System and develop brand assets and brand management tools. Future partnerships, he said, should seek to build strong foundations, create a shared and long-term vision, strategically identify roles and responsibilities of key partners, and aspire to “big tent” participation. Participants looked to the future to collaborate on establishing “Friends of the Manhattan Project National Park Foundation.”

When establishing a donor base and support network, communities should not focus on imitating a model or take a one-size-fit-all approach. Instead, the right approach will ultimately be comprised of many supporters including philanthropists, businesses, and local government.

Next Steps

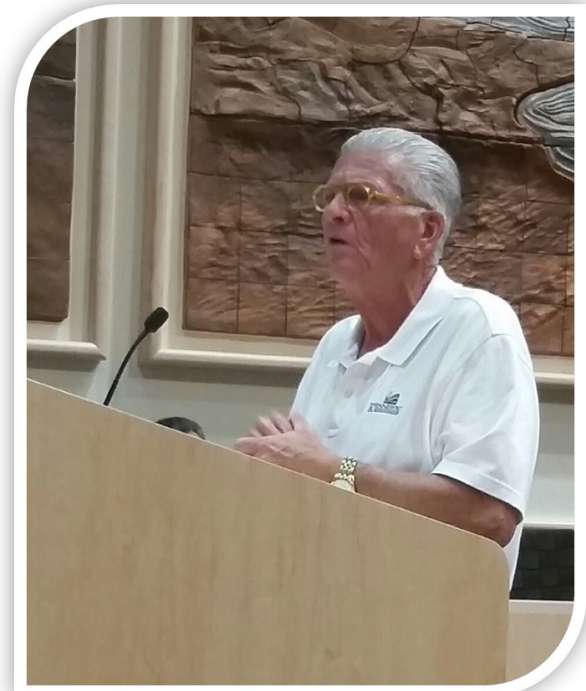
With the draft MOU set to be released this month and the deadline for DOE and DOI to sign their MOU agreement approaching (the MOU is required to be executed by December 31, 2015), local communities are eager to get to work on coordinating with one another. Members have requested a follow-up meeting this September with Associate Director Victor Knox around the date for the DOE National Cleanup Workshop. Specific action items identified by community leaders are:

- The identification of a site-specific representatives to liaise with the NPS;
- The identification of site-specific representatives to participate in joint coordination conference calls;
- Ensuring all site managers are involved with the implementation of the park;
- Coordinating marketing messages;



From left to right: Los Alamos Council Chair Kristin Henderson; Alexandra Gilliland, DOE; Colin Colverson, DOE; Superintendent Jason Lott, NPS; Victor Knox, NPS

- Ensuring ongoing participation of the chambers of commerce and economic development agencies to identify business opportunities and cater to the needs of visitors;
- Building a donor-base and fundraising for the Park;



Kennewick Mayor Steve Young, ECA Vice Chair

(Continued on page 11)



ECA Participants listen to a presentation on the role of local governments in implementing the National Park



Oak Ridge Councilman Chuck Hope ask a question during a panel discussion on supporting the National Park

(Continued from page 10)

Implementing the Manhattan Project National Historical Park – ECA Peer Exchange

- Supporting appropriations for NPS and the Park;
- Setting-up another meeting or conference call after the draft MOU is publically released to coordinate communities.

ECA plans to assist each major stakeholder group to hold monthly meetings followed by a quarterly call to coordinate all groups and communities.

ECA would like to thank all the participants, panelists, and officials who were able to attend and make this Peer Exchange a success. We would especially like to thank Los Alamos County for hosting the event and Under Secretary Klaus and Associate Director Knox for their attendance.

ECA will share the draft MOU as soon as it becomes available. For more on the Manhattan Project Park, you can visit the [DOE website](http://www.energyca.org), [NPS website](http://www.nps.gov), or contact Devon at devon@energyca.org.



Please visit our website:
<http://www.energyca.org>
to be added to our mailing list

NAVY CONSIDERS EASTERN IDAHO FOR NUCLEAR FUEL PROCESSING



Eastern Idaho may become home to a new federal nuclear site which will handle spent nuclear fuel according to the [Associated Press](#). The new facility would replace a decades-old, outdated installation that is currently in use. The U.S. Navy hopes to build the \$1.6 billion facility to house spent fuel rods from nuclear-powered war ships.

The Navy and U.S. Department of Energy recently released a draft environmental impact statement for the jointly operated Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program at the Idaho National Laboratory.

The 81-page document cites the continuation of the current use of existing facilities is not feasible for safety reasons. In an email to the *Associated Press*, Tom Dougan, spokesman for the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, says, “without significant upgrades and refurbishments, the existing facility will not be able to meet the requirements of the U.S. Navy’s nuclear-powered fleet.”

Nuclear fuel used by the Navy is composed of highly enriched uranium. The material is kept in underwater storage containers. The new facility would be able to handle a new type of spent fuel shipping container, which is not feasible at the current facility. The new facility would also house a larger pool of water used to cool radioactive material.

If approved, construction would take three years to complete.

Officials at the Idaho National Laboratory have welcomed the concept of a new facility and plan to contribute comments on the draft. Public meetings on the draft document are planned in early August in Idaho Falls, Pocatello, and Twin Falls, Idaho.

JESSIE ROBERSON NOMINATED TO NRC



On July 15, the President announced his intention to nominate Jessie Hill Roberson to be a Commissioner on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Roberson has served as the Vice Chairman of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety

Board (DNFSB) since 2010; she previously served on the DNFSB from 2000 to 2001. Roberson has more than 30 years of experience in the nuclear engineering field both in the public and private sectors. She notably served as Assistant Secretary

for Environmental Management from 2001 to 2004 and Site Manager for the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site from 1994 to 2000. She’s also held senior positions with Safe Harbor Energy, Innovated Solutions, E.I DuPont, and CH2M Hill. Roberson holds a B.S. in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

ECA has worked closely with Ms. Roberson for over 20 years. While at DOE, she was instrumental in creating programs that educated communities on cleanup issues and she always stressed coordination and outreach to local governments. ECA looks forward to working with her in her new role.



Bulletin Ideas?

Would you like to have stories featured in the next Bulletin?
Send your ideas and photos to Devon@energyca.org

DR. DONALD COOK RETIRES FROM NNSA



In a statement released on July 22, NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs Dr. Donald Cook announced his retirement from federal service. Dr. Cook served in this role for five years and was appointed by the President in July 2010.

“His leadership has been indispensable to ensuring the steady state of success within the weapons program. He led the development of the Uranium and Plutonium strategies with our laboratories and sites. His tireless work on this has improved the capabilities needed to meet the President’s vision for a modernized yet reduced stockpile,” said NNSA spokeswoman Shelley Lavar.

Dr. Cook’s national security career began at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM where he worked in pulsed power sciences, microtechnologies, infrastructure, and security. Prior to his role at NNSA, Dr. Cook served as Managing Director and

Chief Executive Officer of the Atomic Weapons Establishment in the United Kingdom from 2006 to 2009.

NNSA’s statement on Dr. Cook’s retirement praised his work in the administration:

“Dr. Cook strengthened collaboration with other NNSA program offices, specifically supporting Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation with their work on New START, and more recently, with their work on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review

Conference. He also built a framework that advances the science-based Stockpile Stewardship Program. These efforts allow DOE to certify a safe, secure and effective deterrent without returning

to underground nuclear explosive testing.”

Dr. Cook has been a friend of the ECA and we wish him the best for the future. Brig. Gen. Stephen L. Davis, Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Military Application, will serve as acting deputy administrator for defense programs.

“His leadership has been indispensable to ensuring the steady state of success within the weapons program, said NNSA spokesman Shelley Lavar.”

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORTS



DOE PROJECT MANAGEMENT: NNSA Should Ensure Equal Consideration of Alternatives for Lithium Production

A July 13 [report](#) found that NNSA faces significant challenges to its lithium production strategy. Lithium is a key component of nuclear weapons and is essential for their refurbishment. Lithium production at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge was halted due to the condition of the site’s 72-year old lithium production facility. GAO identified challenges in three key areas:

- ◆ NNSA may not have a sufficient supply of lithium material for defense program requirements;
- ◆ Lithium production operations at Y-12 are at risk of catastrophic failure; and,
- ◆ Fiscal constraints could cause delays in the construction of a new lithium production facility.

GAO recommended that NNSA consider all alternatives as it proceeds with its analysis of alternatives process.

INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS



Subcritical Experiment Activities at the Nevada National Security Site

NNSA regularly conducts subcritical experiments to obtain scientific data on the behavior of nuclear weapon materials. The experiments, which are conducted as part of the Stockpile Stewardship Program, take place at the Nevada National Security Site's (NNSS) U1a Complex. In a recent [report](#), the DOE Inspector General did not find any indication that NNSA had not effectively management the experiment activities. On the contrary, the report found that the two entities responsible for overseeing and executing the experiments – Los Alamos National Laboratory and National Security Technologies, LLC – both used project management tools to plan and track the two most recent experiments. Some inconsistencies in budgeting methods for the treatment of contingency/management reserves between the two had been found, however.

The National Nuclear Security Administration's Management of Support Service Contracts

On September 11, 2014, the Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces expressed concern that NNSA may be utilizing Support Service Contracts (SSCs) in ways that are contrary to policy, regulation, and statute. SSCs are used help NNSA fulfill its mission of enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear energy. The Inspector General conducted a [special review](#) of NNSA's self-assessment of its use of SSCs. NNSA identified a number of potential issues with the management of SSCs related to the performance of personal services and inherently governmental functions, as well as potential issues with funding sources. The Inspector General generally concurred with NNSA's self-assessment, finding that some SSCs exhibited characteristics of a personal services contract, contracted services that approached being inherently governmental functions, and NNSA's use of program funds for some SSCs was questionable.

Funds Control Management of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Recovery Act Projects

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided \$5.1 billion to accelerate defense environmental cleanup activities. In January 2013, the Inspector General reviewed an allegation that Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) had inappropriately used Recovery Act funds. A [report](#) found that DOE's Savannah River Operations Office did not always manage Recovery Act projects performed by SRNS in accordance with requirements. Specifically, DOE did not follow funds control restrictions when SRNS, in response to incorrect guidance from the Operations Office, reduced documented fee charges for the Transuranic and Solid Waste project and reallocated that amount to other projects. Allegations that SRNS charged about \$155,000 in questionable costs to Recovery Act projects, including entertainment, promotional items, and commemorative coins, were also confirmed. The Inspector General recommended that DOE clearly communicate the designated funding source for project costs and fees and adequately charges against the correct funding source throughout a project's period of performance.

Follow-up on Nuclear Safety: Safety Basis and Quality Assurance at the Los Alamos National Laboratory

A 2010 [report](#) identified problems at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in fully implementing a number of critical nuclear safety management measures. A [follow-up](#) released this month found that LANL continues to have problems fully implementing a number of critical nuclear safety management requirements. While some improvements had been made at LANL's Plutonium Facility (PF-4) and a Safety Basis Quality Review Board had been established, LANL "had not always developed safety basis documents that met NNSA's expectations to ensure that nuclear hazards had been fully identified." LANL was found to not have effectively implemented its Safety Basis Improvement Plan and nuclear safety deficiencies were not always resolved because corrective actions were not effectively designed to prevent recurrence.

HINTZE TO HEAD LOS ALAMOS EM FIELD OFFICE



Douglas E. Hintze

Douglas E. Hintze has been named manager of the EM Field Office at Los Alamos. The Los Alamos Field Office was established in March to transition direct responsibility for the remaining legacy cleanup at the laboratory from the National Nuclear Security Administration to EM.

Hintze will take over from acting manager, Christine Gelles. Hintze worked as Assistant Manager for Mission Support at DOE's Savannah River Operations Office since 2012. He previously served as Assistant Manager for Integration and Planning, acting Chief Financial Officer, and Director of the Nuclear Materials Operations, Waste Disposition Programs, and Information Management and Technology divisions at Savannah River. In his new role, Hintze will oversee work on lab cleanup sites. Hintze brings over 22 years of experience to the Los Alamos office.

"Doug's experience in helping to manage work at one of our largest cleanup sites makes him an excellent choice to head up the EM-LA Field Office as we continue to assume direct responsibility for the remaining legacy cleanup activities at the Los Alamos National Laboratory," said acting assistant

secretary Mark Whitney.

Hintze previously served nine years with the U.S. Navy as a Project Officer for Strategic Systems Programs and Division Officer on board the submarine USS Florida. He retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve with the rank of captain after 30 years of active and reserve service. He holds degrees from the U.S. Naval Academy, Virginia Tech, and the U.S. Naval War College.

NRC, DHS AND DOT ISSUE MOU ON RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

In July, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a [notice](#) regarding a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Transportation defining a cooperative working relationship regarding radioactive material transportation security. The MOU aims to ensure that the transportation of radioactive material both within in the U.S. and across U.S. borders is carried out in a secure manner that protects public health and safety and does not obstruct the common defense and



security of the country. More specifically, it establishes a framework for the responsible departments and agencies to enhance collaboration, share expertise and information, leverage mutual interests, and reduce duplication.

The MOU is the result of a recommendation made by the Task Force on Radiation Source Protection and Security which was originally established under the *Energy Policy Act of 2005*.

CONTRACTS

Deep Borehole Field Test: Site and Characterization Borehole Investigations

Status: RFP issued July 8

Response: September 9 at 7:00 PM EST

For more information, click [here](#).

The Deep Borehole Field Test project is meant to conduct research and development to assess the viability of deep borehole disposal as an alternative for the disposal of smaller DOE-managed waste forms.

Radiological Decontamination Solutions

Status: Presolicitation, Sources Sought

Response: August 6 at 1:00 PM MST

For more information, click [here](#).

Los Alamos National Laboratory is seeking qualified subcontractors to provide decontamination support that results in reducing the waste classification of certain components from transuranic waste levels down to low level waste levels.

DOE EXTENDS PORTSMOUTH INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT SERVICES CONTRACT

On July 17, DOE announced the six-month extension of its contract for Infrastructure Support Services at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site. The contract period for the current contractor was set to expire on July 25, 2015. According to a DOE [press release](#), the contract extension is valued at approximately \$17.4 million and “is intended to accommodate DOE’s current competitive procurement process for a new infrastructure contract. This action will allow selection, contract award and transition to the new contract to occur without interruptions of ongoing services.”



**To sign up for the ECA email server
please visit our website:**

www.energyca.org

2015 Congressional Calendar

Senate in session
Both chambers in session
Both chambers in recess
Federal holiday

July

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3 Independence Day (Federal holiday)
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

August

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

September

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11
14	15 Rosh Hashanah ends (begins 9/13)	16	17	18
21	22 Yom Kippur begins	23 Yom Kippur Ends	24	25
28	29	30		

October

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12 Columbus Day	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

November

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27
30				

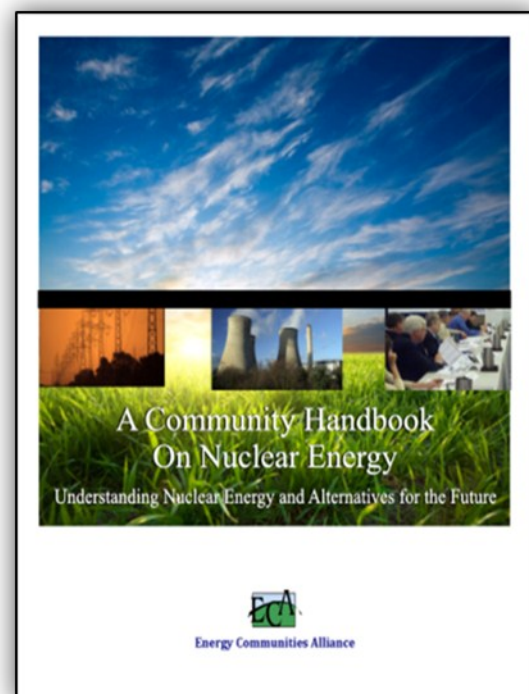
December

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7 Hanukkah begins (12/6)	8	9	10	11
14 Hanukkah ends	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day
28	29	30	31	

NEWLY RELEASED AND UPDATED:

A Community Handbook on Nuclear
Energy: Understanding Nuclear Energy
and Alternatives for the Future

To receive your free copy, please send an
e-mail to sharon.worley@energyca.org



2015 Calendar of Events



August 4 (tentative)	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Hearing on the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle, including S. 854, the <i>Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2015</i>
July 31 – September 7	U.S. House Summer Recess
August 8 – September 7	U.S. Senate Summer Recess
September – October	Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories reports to Congress and the Energy Department
September 8	Congress Reconvenes
September 29-30	DOE National Cleanup Workshop, more information here
October 1	Start of FY 2016
November 16 (tentative)	DOE Intergovernmental Meeting
December 14	75 th Anniversary of the discovery of Plutonium



1101 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202.828.2423
Fax: 202.828.2488
Email: bulletin@energyca.org

ECA Articles

Devon Hill, Program Manager
Ivana Brancaccio, Program Manager
Kara Colton, Director of Nuclear Energy Programs

Layout and Design

Sharon M. Worley, ECA Administrative Assistant

Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) Bulletin

1101 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036

All Rights Reserved © 2015 by the Energy Communities Alliance. No portion is to be reproduced without credit and written notification to the Energy Communities Alliance. The Energy Communities Alliance Bulletin is published monthly via a printed and electronic version. If you would like to subscribe to the Energy Communities Alliance Bulletin, please send your name and address to the address above or fax it to us at 202-828-2488 or email Bulletin@energyca.org

Thank you to the Department of Energy's Environmental Management Office for its support of the ECA Bulletin through cooperative agreement No. DE—EM002400